

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

COME-00 /028 W

-----101540Z 124387 /53

R 101100Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8767

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP GB

SUBJECT: TRANSGABONAI: GENERAL ELECTIRC LOCOMOTIVES

1. POST HAS LEARNED FROM MEMBER OF OCTRA MANAGEMENT ABOUT ALLEGED ANGER OF DIRECTOR GENERAL TSIBAH OVER RECENT GENERAL ELECTRIC TELEGRAM.

2. ALTHOUGH CABLE WAS NOT SHOWN TO EMBOFF, IT PURPORTEDLY WAS ROUTED THROUGH GE PARIS, A MR DE BORNE, FOR TRANSLATION TO FRENCH. EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT CABLE DEMANDED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO PORT OF OWENDO UNLOADING FACILITIES UPOON ARRIVAL OF GE LOCOMTIVES. IF NOT GIVEN SUCH PRIORITY BERTHIHING, GOG WOULD BE CHARGED DOLS TWELVE THOUSHAND FOR EACH DAY OF DELAY.

3. TSIGAH, IT WAS REPORTED, TOK OFFENSE AT BOTH TONE OF MESSAGE AND IMPLIED DIG THAT OCTRA WOULD NOT NEDESSARITLY TREAT OFF LOADING AS PRIORITY MATTER.

4. OCTA MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THEY WOULD DO EVERYTING IN THEIR POWER TO DISCHARGE LOCOMOTIVES QUICKLY, AND HE ADDED TAT IN A ARECENT EXPRIENCE WITH BOX CARS, OCTRA HAD ARRANGED OFF LOADING THE DAY AFTER A VESSEL ARRIVE IN LIBREVILLE. HE ADDED THAT OWENDO
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NORMALLY HAS A ONE WEEK BACKLOG, BUT DUE TO PRIMACY OF OF TRANSGANONAI: PROJECT, OCTRA HAS PRIORITY AND CAN JUMP THE QUEUE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXPERIENCE WITH PORT OF OWENDO HAS SHOWN DELAYS ON ONE WEEK NOT UNCOMMON, BUT POST FEELS OCTRA WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER PRIORITY BERTHING, PROBABLY

WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ARRIVAL OF VESSEL. IF CABLE WAS
INDEED AS TART AS REPORTED, GENERAL ELECTRIC MAY WISH
TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION TSIBAHS PIQUE AND WORD
CABLES SOMEWHAT BETTER IN FUTURE. THERE MAY BE SOME
RISKS TO FOLLOW ON ORDERS IF GABONESE SENSITIVITY IS
NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. STEIGMAN

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NNN

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Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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